United Nations S/2017/318

Security Council

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Identical letters dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), and in reference to the attack on Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib, that took place on 4 April 2017, I would like to bring to your attention the report by the Ministry of Health dated 11 April 2017 on the blood and urine analysis performed on samples from the victims of the attack who were treated in Turkey (see annex I).

Please also find enclosed a press statement by the Ministry of Health dated 6 April 2017 on the victims of the attack who were treated in Turkey (see annex II).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-06118 (E) 210417

Please recycle

Annex I to the identical letters dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Analysis of blood and urine samples taken from victims treated in Turkey who were exposed to chemical warfare agents in Syria

Blood and urine samples taken on 7 April 2017 from 10 patients being treated in Hatay, who were exposed to chemical warfare agents in Idlib on 4 April 2017, were received and analysed by the Turkish Public Health Agency Chemical Warfare Agents Diagnosis and Verification Laboratory on 8 April 2017.

Blood and urine samples taken on 6 April 2017 during the autopsies of three victims who died in Adana were received and analysed by the Turkish Public Health Agency Chemical Warfare Agents Diagnosis and Verification Laboratory on 10 April 2017.

The method optimization of chromatographic devices for analysis and the preprocessing of the samples have been carried out.

Devices used:

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

Isopropyl methyl phosphonic acid, a metabolite of sarin gas, was detected in the urine samples of the patient named Ahmed El Salih, who is still under treatment in Hatay, as well as in the samples from the victims named Sait Hüseyin, Esme El Hasan and Muhammed Avat, who have died.

In the urine samples of the Syrian citizen named Sait Hüseyin, who has died, isopropyl methyl phosphonic acid, the metabolite of the chemical warfare agent sarin gas, was identified through the use of two different methods, meeting the international standards of identification set by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

These laboratory results verify that the attacking agent is sarin gas.

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13 April 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

At 0019 hours on Monday, 27 March 2017, warplanes of the "international coalition" led by the United States of America struck a vehicle that was carrying a team of technicians responsible for the Euphrates Dam and some Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers. One of the passengers in that vehicle was the Acting Director of the dam. The team was attempting to reach the dam in order to repair the damage that it had sustained as a result of bombardment by international coalition forces and to prevent its collapse. Firas al-Husayn, a Syrian civilian and Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteer, was killed and the rest of the team members were injured in this heinous act of aggression.

The deliberate targeting by the "international coalition" of humanitarian teams is a blatant violation of United Nations resolutions concerning the safety, security and protection of humanitarian workers, the most recent of which is General Assembly resolution 71/129. It is also a violation of the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This crime that the "international coalition" committed is part of its ongoing and despicable aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. The coalition's attacks have targeted bridges, dams and installations along the Euphrates River, something that we had drawn attention to in one of our previous letters (S/2017/240). We have warned of the grave threat that these attacks pose to the lives of approximately 3 million civilians and their catastrophic impact on the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, and to take action to put an immediate end to attacks by the "international coalition" against the Syrian Arab Republic. Those attacks, which serve the interests of the armed terrorist groups directly, have killed hundreds of innocent civilians and dozens of members of the Syrian Arab Army, which has been confronting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant terrorist organization, and caused tremendous material damage to and destroyed infrastructure and economic, service, oil and gas facilities, as well as public and private property, in the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative